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REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, }
Richmond, November 18, 1863. }

TO THE PRESIDENT :

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following annual report :

In some of the districts, the operations of the enemy have interfered with the business of the courts, causing, in some instances, the removal of the records to places of greater safety. Apart from those interruptions and removals, nothing worthy of note has marked the regular routine of the dockets, except the accidental burning of the court-rooms in Richmond, and the frequent escapes from the State prisons of persons charged, in most instances, with counterfeiting, or passing, or attempting to pass, counterfeit treasury notes. The most valuable papers were, however, most fortunately preserved from the fire, and in most cases, I believe, the prisoners who escaped have been recaptured.

The marshal of the district of Alabama, Benjamin Patteson, has died within the last few weeks, and his successor should be appointed as early as practicable after the meeting of the Senate.

Henry A. G. Battle, Esq., was appointed marshal of the district of Louisiana on the 29th day of April last, and in the absence of information as to the place at which a letter would reach him by mail, one was written informing him of his appointment, and entrusted to a member of Congress from that State, who was about starting on his return home. Information of the appointment was subsequently sent by letter to the attorney for the district. No communication, however, has been received at the Department that the appointee has either accepted or declined the appointment.

The predecessor of Mr. Battle was appointed during the recess of the Senate, and having declined to have an appointment by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, his term of office expired at the end of the session of Congress next succeeding his appointment. The sixth section of the judiciary act, approved 16th March, 1861, provides: "And in case of the death, resignation, or removal of any

marshal, his deputy or deputies shall continue in office, unless otherwise removed, and shall execute the same" (writs and precepts) "in the name of the deceased, resigned, or removed marshal, until another marshal shall be appointed and qualified;" * * * "and every marshal or deputy, when removed from office, or when the term for which the marshal is appointed shall expire, shall have power, notwithstanding, to execute all such precepts and process as may be in their hands respectively at the time of such removal or expiration of office, until the next term of the court." It is apparent that the only express provision for the performance of the duties of the office, in case of the expiration of the term, is in the latter clause, and that provision extends only to the service of "precepts and process" which may be in hand at the expiration. Neither clause can, perhaps, be so construed as to authorize the action of a deputy in any case after the commencement of the next term of the court. There is no information in the Department in relation to the action of the deputies since Mr. Lusher went out of office. It is probable, however, that they have continued to discharge the duties of the office; and I suggest that the law be so amended as to cover the case of expiration, as it does in case of removal, death, or resignation, and that the amendment have a retrospective effect so far as to legalize the acts of deputies in the omitted case.

The courts for the Indian Territories remain unorganized. Nominations for judges, attorneys, and marshals, were made soon after notice was received of the ratifications of the treaties, but the Department has not been notified that any action thereon was taken by the Senate.

Attention may here be called to the fiftieth section of the judiciary act, approved 16th March, 1861, in relation to arrests, writs, bail-bonds, and indictments, in cases of parties charged, prior to secession, with offences against the United States. The act declares that such proceedings shall continue in force, notwithstanding the secession of the State in which the offence was committed.

On the 27th December, 1862, the Attorney General considered the question submitted by the Postmaster General, whether the perpetrator of a mail robbery, committed in South Carolina previous to the secession of that State, against whom no proceeding had been commenced, could now be prosecuted under the joint effect of the United States statute, making mail robbery a penal offence, and the act of the Provisional Congress "continuing" it in force? He decided that such a prosecution could not be maintained. He argued that crimes, the creatures of statutes, could not be punished after the repeal of the statutes creating them, unless the right to punish was reserved; that the ordinance of secession was a repeal of the United States statutes; that the Government of the Confederate States was not the *successor* of that of the United States; that the Confederate States had no laws, in their aggregate capacity, except the Constitution, until Congress enacted laws; that Congress had passed no law to punish offences against the United States *in cases in which prosecutions had not been commenced prior to the secession of the State in which the offences were*

committed. The case did not require him to go further, but the conclusion may be extended to all cases embraced in the fiftieth section of the act above cited.

It is clear that offences against the United States were not offences against the Confederate States. The Government of the Confederate States did not acquire *by succession* the right to punish such offences. Any act of Congress, therefore, making an offence against the United States, prior to secession, an offence against the Confederate States, is an *ex post facto* law. Hence it was subsequently said by the Attorney General, in his opinion on the 28th September, 1863: "In my judgment, the law of Congress which provides for the continuance of prosecutions pending in the United States courts at the time of secession of the States, is not authorized by the Constitution, but is especially prohibited by that instrument." The prohibition is in the provisional Constitution under which the act was passed, as well as amongst the provisions of the permanent Constitution.

Cases, however, were transferred from the United States courts, and are now docketed and continued from term to term in the Confederate States district courts, and the costs are paid out of the Confederate States treasury. I suggest that so much of the judiciary act as retains them be repealed, and that the judges be required to dismiss them.

The forty-seventh section of the same act, amongst other things, provides that "all suits pending in said (Confederate States) courts, in which the United States are plaintiffs, shall remain suspended, and no further proceedings shall be had therein, until the independency of the Confederacy shall be recognized by the United States; and execution of all judgments rendered in favor of said United States is hereby suspended," &c. I suggest that these provisions be repealed, so that the payments may be collected, and such disposition made of the proceeds as Congress shall direct; and so that cases pending may be continued, decided, or dismissed, according to the discretion of the court. In regard to the judgments, it may be said, that at no future time after peace will the defendants, probably be able to pay them with less inconvenience than at the present time.

The fifty-first section of the same act declares: "When, by the laws of any State, its penitentiary or jails may be used by the courts or marshals of the Confederate States, the same shall be so used whenever necessary; but if in any State there be no law authorizing their use, then it shall be the duty of the marshal to provide a suitable place or places for the custody and confinement of all prisoners or convicts who may be committed to his custody by competent legal authority." Many of our penal statutes fix the punishment of offences at one or more years at hard labor in the penitentiary. The State of Virginia allows the use of her penitentiary to the courts and marshals of the Confederate States, but it is now reported so full of convicts that admission is refused to those from the Confederate States district courts.

It is apparent that the act of Congress does not provide for such a case. In several of the States there are no penitentiaries. It may

be that some plan can be devised by which the ends of punishment would be fully met, and the labor of the convicts at the same time secured to the Confederate States. The matter seems worthy of consideration, and attention is therefore called to it.

The 21st section of the same act, fixed the compensation of witnesses at the amount fixed by the law of the State, in which they are summoned, and the 25th section fixed the compensation of jurors in the same way, except that it allowed mileage when none is allowed by the State law. The 3d and 4th sections of the act of the 19th April, 1862, entitled "an act regulating the fees of marshals and for other purposes," attempted to change the compensation of both jurors and witnesses. This Department, which has supervision of such accounts, held the sections to be void, as they were in conflict with the 20th clause of the 9th section of the 1st article of the Constitution, which requires that "every law, or resolution having the force of law, shall relate to but one subject, and that shall be expressed in the title." The act of the Congress of the United States of the 16th August, 1856; Brightly's Digest 280, § 50, which is in force in the Confederate States, provides, "that no accounts of fees or costs paid to any witness or juror, upon the order of any judge or commissioner, shall be so re-examined, as to charge any marshal for an erroneous taxation of such fees or costs." Some of the judges allow the compensation according to the 3d and 4th sections of the act of the 19th April, but others do not, and thus different rules prevail in different districts. Attention was called to the matter, in the last annual report, but no action in regard to it, was taken by Congress. The compensation is entirely inadequate to pay the necessary expenses of witness or jurors, and it may be worthy of consideration, whether it would not be better to take away the so-called compensation and provide that the amount of necessary expenditure shall be refunded.

The act of the 19th April, 1862, entitled "an act to limit the compensation of clerks, marshals and districts attorneys of the Confederate States," requires each one to make a semi-annual return to the Attorney General, of the amount of his emoluments received and payable during the half year, and after fixing the limit of each one's "official income, and allowing him to deduct his necessary office expenses, declare that every such officer shall, with each return made by him, pay into the treasury of the Confederate States, or deposit to the credit of the treasurer thereof, any surplus of the fees and emoluments of his office, which his half yearly return so made, shall show to exist over and above the compensation and allowances herein authorized to be retained and paid by him." It happens that many of the fees earned and payable in a half year are not received until some period beyond that time, and I therefore suggest that the law be so amended as to require the officer to pay over only the surplus of emoluments actually received.

The act of the 30th of August, 1861, provides, that persons having claims, for money, against the Confederate States, for the proof and payment of which there is no mode provided by existing laws, may file them in the Department of Justice, and the Attorney General is

directed to decide each case and report his decision to Congress. The testimony in such cases is necessarily *ex parte*, and decisions based thereon, are therefore unsafe and unsatisfactory. This consideration and the course heretofore taken by Congress upon the claims reported, suggest the repeal of the act so far, at least, as it requires a report to Congress. It would, perhaps, be better to establish at once the judicial tribunal, which the Constitution requires Congress to establish for the adjudication of claims. The testimony would then be taken under the rules of court, the transaction would still be recent, and the memory of the witness fresh and thus the testimony would be obtained and preserved in a reliable form.

The Attorney General is required to have the acts of Congress published in certain public gazettes, and the compensation for such publication is fixed by law. By reason of the very great advance in prices, the late Attorney General found it impossible to have the publication, of the acts of the last session, made in the newspapers in the city of Richmond, for a less price than their usual advertising rates. Acting under the impression that the payment of the price asked, was a lesser evil than the non-publication of the laws, and there being no other way to discharge the duty imposed upon him, he consented to the terms of the proprietors of the gazettes, and ordered the publication. But the accounts cannot be paid under the law, and the matter will therefore, be for the consideration of Congress. The proprietors of public gazettes, in other States, pursued different courses—some refuse to publish—others protested against the price, but consented to publish at a sacrifice, on account of the public interest in the legislation of Congress, and from others no reply was received. One proprietor, whose paper was selected, refused to publish under the terms, but said he would publish and rely upon Congress to give him just compensation.

If Congress shall desire an early publication of the acts of the next session, some immediate legislation should be had upon the price to be paid.

Some of the gazettes, which have the best circulation at home, have been driven by the enemy beyond the limits of their respective States. The object of publishing the laws in particular gazettes is to furnish information of the laws to the greatest number of people in certain localities, and I suggest, therefore, that the law be so amended as to allow the selection of papers temporarily published in a State other than that to which it belongs.

On the 17th February, 1862, Congress authorized the publication of three thousand copies of the provisional and permanent Constitutions, of the acts and resolutions of the Provisional Congress, and of the Indian treaties, with a view of presenting the whole action of the convention and of the provisional Government in one volume. Soon after the passage of the act, the work was put in press, and it has now reached only a form or two beyond the acts and resolutions of Congress, leaving nearly the whole of the treaties yet to be published. It is hoped, however, that the work will be ready for delivery in the course of a few more months, as it has lately been progressing with

unwonted rapidity. It is very much needed, as it has been many months since the previous editions of the acts and resolutions were exhausted.

Another act of the 17th February, 1862, authorized and instructed the President of the Congress to have prepared by persons selected by him and sworn to secrecy, two copies of the journals of the Provisional Congress and the proceedings of the Convention, which framed the provisional and permanent Constitutions of the Confederate States; and it provided that, after being examined, certified and sealed, they should be endorsed as true and exact copies, and one copy should be deposited in the Department of Justice, and the other retained by the President of the Congress, and that the original should be sealed and endorsed, and deposited with the Secretary of State. The act evinces no more than a just appreciation of a debt due, at least, to posterity, in its carefulness to preserve records which will hereafter be searched with eager interest. The copy, however, has not been deposited in this Department, nor do I know what progress, if any, has been made in the execution of the act. Attention is called to the matter, that investigation may be made and further action taken if it should seem to be necessary.

The salaries of some of the district judges are very inadequate. They are fixed now at the sum received by any judge of the highest court in the State in which the district lies. In Louisiana, therefore, the salary of the district judge is \$5,000; in Alabama, \$4,000; in Mississippi, South Carolina and Georgia, \$3,500; in Texas and Virginia, \$3,000; in Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and Florida, \$2,500.

The expenditures of the Department for the last fiscal year, viz: from 1st July, 1862, to 1st July, 1863, as shown by the books of the Comptroller of the Treasury, are:

For compensation of Attorney General, assistant Attorney General, clerks and messengers, - - -	\$16,296 72
For incidental and contingent expenses of Department, - - -	1,666 67
For salaries of judges and attorneys and for contingent and incidental expenses of courts, - - -	131,880 63
For salaries of Superintendent of Public Printing, clerk and messenger, - - - - -	4,869 24
For salaries of commissioners under sequestration act and of clerk, and for contingent and incidental expenses, - - - - -	13,091 60
For publication of acts and resolutions of Congress, - - -	1,232 12
For purchase of paper for Congress and Executive Departments, - - - - -	13,178 15
For printing for several Executive Departments, - - -	140,868 92

Making an aggregate of three hundred and twenty-three thousand and eighty four dollars and five cents. The expenditures of the Patent Office, one of the bureaus of this Department, are omitted, as they are paid out of its own receipts, and as the commissioner is required to report directly to Congress.

Many points worthy of legislation must occur to the judges and

district attorneys in their daily investigations, and constant intercourse with judicial affairs, and I have, therefore, addressed to them a circular letter, requesting that all such points may be reported to the Department, whilst fresh in memory, so that they may be preserved, digested and presented in the succeeding annual report. Legislation, which is the result of experience, is apt to be wiser in purpose and more accurate in detail than that which is the result of mere theoretical deduction, and there is no source from which so much and such valuable information of the kind could be expected as from those who are constantly engaged in the administration of the laws. There may be some better plan for attaining the desired end, as quarterly reports required by law, and the matter is, therefore, submitted for consideration.

I beg leave to call attention to the accompanying report of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WADE KEYES,

Attorney General, ad interim.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC PRINTING.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC PRINTING, }
Richmond, Va., November 18, 1863. }

HON. WADE KEYES,
Attorney General, ad interim :

SIR: The operations of this bureau have been seriously embarrassed during the past year by the increased cost of labor and material. Contractors justly complain of their hardships, and ask me to propose a measure of relief. Messrs. Richie & Dunnivant, contractors for the War, Post-Office and State Departments, say :

"The amount paid by us for composition, press work binding and ruling, together with all the incidental expenses attending the same, is not less than one hundred per cent. more now than it was twelve months ago. As to the future, we cannot say anything about what it may be."

Messrs. Tyler, Wise & Allegre, contractors for the Department of Justice, make the following statement :

"During the past year printer's wages have been increased over one hundred per cent., and every item of material used in the business has also greatly advanced in price. At the time our present contract was made with the Department, printers received thirty-five cents per thousand ems; now, one dollar is the price paid them. We, therefore, respectfully ask for an increased compensation, under the contract, both for composition and press work."

Messrs. McFarland & Fergusson, contractors for the Navy Department, write as follows :

"In justice to ourselves, we respectfully ask that you petition Congress to consider the present pay of the printers, under their contracts. We are now paying one dollar per thousand ems, for plain work, and receiving seventy cents; for tabular work one dollar, and paying two dollars."

From R. M. Smith, Esq., the Congressional Printer, the following letter has been received, which I copy entire, because it presents more fully and completely the disadvantages under which the printing ordered by the Government has been executed :

"OFFICE OF PUBLIC PRINTER. }
"Nov. 14, 1863. }

"E. G. DILL, Esq.,
Acting Superintendent of Public Printing :

"Sir: In answer to your inquiry as to what portion of the public printing ordered by Congress remains unexecuted, I answer that the printing of the battle reports has been

suspended by me, though all other orders have been executed. I am sure that the reason for suspending the order above mentioned will be understood by Congress, as I took pains to explain to the committees of the two Houses the absolute necessity under which I should be placed, if the rates of compensation were not considerably increased. In my anxiety to promote the public service, I have printed much that I could not afford, because a failure to do so would have produced much inconvenience. This reason did not apply in the case of the battle reports.

"The necessity of increasing the compensation of the Public Printer is necessarily apparent to you, but for your information, it may not be amiss to state some facts. When I became Public Printer, in the summer of 1861, the price paid to compositors was thirty cents per thousand ems. The price allowed to me by law was seventy cents, which I fit me an advance of forty cents, or one hundred and thirty-three and a third per cent. to pay for proof-reading, superintendence, rent of office, use of material, and my own services. The cost of composition has increased, by successive stages, in proportion as the cost of living increased; so that I am now paying one dollar per thousand, besides the other expenses above stated. The Government still pays me but seventy cents. Already I have intimations that the increased price of living will require a further advance in composition, which still further increase my losses on all printers' work done for Congress. The cost of press work has increased still more rapidly, owing, in fact, to the vast increase in the price of ink, and the increased expense of machinery and fuel. The work now costs me four times as much as formerly. My own compensation is unaltered—seventy cents per token. Indeed, it is difficult to tell what would be a fair standard of compensation for the Public Printer, if the rates are to remain without revision for any considerable time, so great and rapid is the rise in the price of material and in expenses of all sorts. Even now, the increase in rates which I asked of the late Congress has already become inadequate to pay the bare expenses.

"I am, very respectfully, yours,

"R. M. SMITH."

This letter applies with equal force to the printing of the Treasury Department, (for which Mr. Smith is one of the contractors,) although that work is not specially alluded to. Thus, you will perceive, that there is a stronger claim for increased compensation now, than at the last session of Congress, when both Houses acknowledged the necessity by the passage of a bill, which, however, failed to receive the signature of the President, in the press of important business incident to the close of the session. The failure of this bill at first promised to prove a very serious obstacle to this bureau, but after mature deliberation, the contractors determined, in a spirit worthy of the devotion they profess to Southern independence, to execute the work, even at the risk of serious loss. How they have carried out this determination the records of this office amply attest.

But even if the proposed relief had been extended at the last session, the facts already stated prove that it would be insufficient now. The prices of labor in this Department are subject to the same laws which govern in other Departments, and it would be folly to contend that the seventy cents per thousand ems, and seventy cents per token allowed by the act of February 27, 1861, are sufficient to-day, when the journeyman demands and receives one dollar. Indeed, it needs no argument to show that the cost of labor will ever depend upon the cost of living, and that legislative action, unless it affect equally all the parties interested, the contractor as well as the employee, must fail to meet the end of all legislation. Therefore, I would propose that the compensation of contractors, the tariff of prices to be paid for every description of work, be left to the discretion of the head of this bureau, subject, however, to your approval. I believe that this course would give entire satisfaction, that it would be fair alike to the Government and the contractors. If an increased price were fixed

by Congress at its next session, what guarantee have you that the necessity therefor will continue to exist for any great length of time, or that it will not become wholly insufficient before the assembling of another Congress? Has it not occurred to you that if this bureau were authorized to regulate the prices charged for printing, the compensation would depend upon the cost of labor and material, and that when labor and material became cheap, prices would be reduced? But I feel assured I have no need to argue this question. The advantages to be obtained are apparent to the dullest comprehension.

The propriety of this measure being established, I would recommend a still further change; but I would have it understood that these suggestions derive their force from the disturbed condition of the country consequent upon the fiendish war waged against us by the northern abolitionists. I would urge the policy of authorizing the head of this bureau to apportion the printing of the Government among the several printing establishments of this city, without the formality of making a contract. If it be acknowledged that prices cannot be specifically regulated by law, (and there is not a single contractor with whom I have conversed who does not confess his inability to fix a price to govern his future charges for printing,) then surely there can be no argument in favor of the contract system, because there would remain nothing to be regulated by contract, except the question as to whom the printing of the several Executive Departments should be given.

Besides, frequent complaints are made, especially by the War Department, of the delay in delivering printing ordered. The right to give out the work to that establishment which could return it first would, of course, secure a more prompt compliance with the demands of the Government. And there would, in fact, be no injustice in this to the contractors themselves, for the reason that with the exception of the contract of the Post-office Department, with Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant, the contracts of the several Executive Departments, under the act of February 27, 1861, have expired months since, and not been renewed. Nevertheless, the contractors, themselves, have been held to a strict fulfilment of their obligations, because they have presented bills which have been paid at the rates fixed therein; and the Department will continue thus to hold them until they give formal notice of their unwillingness longer to receive the work upon these terms.

Still, if it be deemed best not to confer upon me authority to give out the printing, subject to your approval, and without the formality of a contract, where it can be most speedily and economically executed, and to establish a tariff of prices for all descriptions of work, then let this power be modified so that I am restricted by a proviso, to the effect that the compensation so fixed shall not exceed a certain per centum to be fixed by Congress, upon the actual cost of the work and material used. I confess that this latter proposition would probably lead to complications and differences of opinion between the parties engaged in executing the work and this office, but I am so anxious that something may be done to relieve the Government and the printers;

that I am induced to mould my suggestions so as to be most likely to meet any objections that may be offered to a change so radical.

And as an additional reason in favor of my plan, I would again call your attention to the fact that the existing laws do not contain any provisions fixing the prices for ruling and binding, for which there is a very heavy outlay. If these suggestions should be adopted, there would remain no immediate necessity for action upon this subject, because if authorized to establish rates of compensation, I would feel it incumbent upon me to include ruling and binding; but, if another course should be found expedient, then there should be some special enactments in reference thereto.

I conceive it to be my duty to call your attention to the remarks in my last annual report upon the purchase of paper. They are probably deserving of more careful consideration now than at the time they were first presented; and I am convinced that I can add nothing to their weight at this time. I will reproduce them, therefore, without further comment:

"On the 19th August last, I addressed a letter to you, requesting an amendment in the fourth section of the act of the Provisional Congress, approved May 14th, 1861, entitled "An act to organize further the Bureau of Superintendent of Public Printing," by conferring upon me additional authority to purchase, without advertising for sealed proposals, paper necessary to do all the printing of Congress, or either one of the Executive Departments, and writing paper and envelopes used by Congress or the Executive Departments.

"The scarcity of paper and the high prices which it commands, has been the chief source of embarrassment. Paper manufactured within the limits of the Confederacy has advanced more than one hundred per cent., and that of foreign manufacture, suitable for blank books, and the finer descriptions of printing, from two hundred and fifty to five hundred per cent. So steady has been the advance in price, and so great the demand for it, that I have found it impossible to secure a single contract. Nor is there a probability that I will be able to make a single contract until peace is established. The manufacturers are well aware that they can find a ready sale for all the paper they can make, and prefer rather to risk the market than fix the price as they would be compelled to do, if they made a contract under the act of May 14th, 1861.

"The law, as it now stands, gives me authority to contract, but does not authorize me to make purchases. You will recollect that several months ago, I consulted you upon this subject. Your reply was to the effect that I could lawfully purchase paper needed for immediate use, provided I could not secure a contract for it. I have done so on several occasions, where circumstances imperatively demanded it, but it would be more economical to keep a large supply on hand, so that all the paper required for the printing could be supplied by this bureau. As I stated, in the letter above referred to, a large portion of the paper now used is purchased by the several contractors of the paper dealers of this city, who obtain it from vessels running the blockade, or in distant parts of the Confederacy. Of course it is held at a high figure, and the Government not only pays what it costs in the first instance, but also the advance demanded here for it.

"I would add that the law of February 27th, 1861, fixes the per cent. allowed to the contractor, at not more than twenty per cent. on the actual cost of the paper. Under the several contracts, this per cent. ranges from five to ten per cent.; consequently it makes no difference how much the contractor pays for paper, as he is sure of his five or ten per cent., which is a handsome profit on the amount invested.

"You will observe, therefore, that if I am authorized to purchase the paper, this per cent. will also be saved to the Government. I have included writing paper and envelopes, because I am very frequently requested by the several Departments to furnish these articles, and because I believe it would result in a considerable saving to the Government."

The bills for the printing of Congress and the several Executive Departments, examined, approved and passed for payment since my

last annual report, foot up seventy-four thousand four hundred thirty-six dollars and eighty cents, (\$74,436 80,) of which the following is a statement in detail:

For Congress,	-	-	-	-	\$6,975 52
For the State Department,	-	-	-	-	44 90
For the Department of Justice,	-	-	-	-	91 71
For the Treasury Department,	-	-	-	-	40,986 74
For the War Department,	-	-	-	-	19,594 89
For the Navy Department,	-	-	-	-	1,367 67
For the Post-Office Department,	-	-	-	-	5,375 37
Total,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$74,436 80</u>

There are outstanding bills to a considerable amount, which will shortly be presented for settlement. From the data before me, I have been able to furnish an approximate result, as follows:

For Congress,	-	-	-	-	\$7,000 00
For the Department of Justice,	-	-	-	-	150 00
For the Treasury Department,	-	-	-	-	36,000 00
For the War and State Departments,	-	-	-	-	110,000 00
For the Navy Department,	-	-	-	-	1,200 00
Total,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$154,350 00</u>

The outstanding indebtedness for the Post-Office Department is not included in the above statement, because, by law, it is required, since the 1st of March last to be self-sustaining. Of course all printing therefor will, from that date, be paid out of the fund of that Department, although this bureau will continue to superintend its execution and examine all accounts.

From the statements above given it will be perceived that the printing of the Government, from the 1st of January last to the 1st of December next, will probably cost two hundred and sixty-four thousand five hundred and one dollars and thirty-five cents, (\$264,501 35,) as follows:

For Congress,	-	-	-	-	\$13,975 52
For the State Department,	-	-	-	-	44 90
For the Department of Justice,	-	-	-	-	241 71
For the Treasury Department,	-	-	-	-	76,986 74
For the War Department,	-	-	-	-	129,594 89
For the Navy Department,	-	-	-	-	2,567 67
For the Post-Office Department,	-	-	-	-	5,375 37
For the purchase of paper by Superintendent,	-	-	-	-	35,714 55
Total,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$264,501 35</u>

Thus a very heavy increase of expenditure is shown since my last annual report, but when the rapid increase in the cost of all kinds of labor and material is considered, it will be fully explained. As an additional cause, I would refer you to the vast increase in the printing

for the Treasury Department, which last year cost but eight thousand three hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-one cents, (\$8,311 71.) It now reaches not less than seventy-six thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and seventy-four cents, (76,986 74.) for a period of eleven months. The creation of the Tax Bureau has occasioned this great difference between the expenses of the last two years—that office alone having ordered and received upwards of two millions of blanks.

On the books of the Treasury Department, on the 30th of September last, the following sums remained to the credit of the printing fund:

Publication and printing of the acts and resolutions of Congress, ten thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven dollars and thirty-four cents, - - - - - \$10,727 34

Printing of the several executive departments, one hundred and fifty-eight thousand two hundred and twenty-seven dollars and forty-four cents, - - - - - 158,227 44

Purchase of paper for the executive departments and Congress, seventeen thousand six hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars and eighty-five cents, - - - 17,621 85

It will be observed, therefore, that the appropriations made last year will probably cover the expenditures.

I have prepared the following statements for the purpose of showing the quantity of printing executed for the Government:

For Congress :

There were printed, of—

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	2 copies.
Bills and resolutions,	-	-	-	-	133,600 "
Yeas and nays,	-	-	-	-	3,000 "

For the State Department :

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	6 copies.
Blanks,	-	-	-	-	7,510 "
Envelope headings,	-	-	-	-	5,000 "

For the Department of Justice :

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	2 copies.
Blanks	-	-	-	-	8,430 "
Envelope headings,	-	-	-	-	1,200 "

For the Treasury Department :

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	3,199 copies.
Blanks,	-	-	-	-	2,105,480 "
Circulars,	-	-	-	-	3,400 "
Envelope headings,	-	-	-	-	5,250 "

For the War Department :

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	276 copies.
Blanks,	-	-	-	-	3,508,930 "
Circulars,	-	-	-	-	55,220 "
General Orders,	-	-	-	-	385,783 "
Envelope Headings,	-	-	-	-	83,214 "

For the Navy Department :

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	-	28 copies.
Blanks, -	-	-	-	-	-	70,350 "
Circulars,	-	-	-	-	-	450 "
Envelope headings,	-	-	-	-	-	8,200 "

For the Post-Office Department :

Blank books,	-	-	-	-	-	8 copies.
Post bills,	-	-	-	-	-	9,043,200 "
Blanks, -	-	-	-	-	-	564,031 "
Circulars,	-	-	-	-	-	15,440 "
Envelope headings,	-	-	-	-	-	45,200 "

Frequent complaints have reached this office of the manner in which the reports of battles are printed for Congress. Upon inquiry, I learn that every care is taken by the Congressional printer to have the proof read by copy, but that the copy furnished is in itself very often inaccurate and obscure. I am informed that, in one instance, the name of an officer was spelled in three different ways. Of course, the printer could not decide which was correct. As a remedy, I would suggest that when these reports are ordered to be printed, some competent person should be selected to edit them. With the multifarious duties incumbent upon me, and the small force at my command, it is impossible for me to attend to the proof-reading.

In conclusion, I will express the hope that my recommendations may receive your approbation. That some change should be made, there can be no doubt, and that the one I have herein pointed out is the best suited to the times, I have the assurance of all whom I have consulted upon the subject.

I have the honor, sir, to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. W. NELSON.

Superintendent of Public Printing.

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